

FAQ – PhD Candidates

Each Early-Stage Researcher (ESR) will be provided with a three-year work contract for full-time research positions with additional funding for mobility and extra research expenses. The work contract includes health insurance, which is comprehensive and does not discriminate against individuals with pre-existing health conditions.

What is the first step I should take?

First, verify that you fulfil all the eligibility criteria. In particular, the Academic and International criteria. Namely, you must have a master's degree or equivalent university degree (with respect to the requirements of the host institutions and the regional doctoral school) earned no more than 4 years prior to the call deadline (March 31, 2021) and in hand by the start of the PhD contract (before August, 31 2021). You must not already be, nor ever have been, enrolled in a PhD programme, and nor have been awarded a PhD degree.

You must not have had your main residence, or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.), in France for more than 12 months during the three years immediately prior to the deadline for the call (**03/31/2020**); short stays such as holidays in France, are not taken into account.

What is the second step I should take?

Second, apply online to one research project you find attractive. Contact the Investigators for further information in order to apply in the best conditions.

How do I find a research group?

You do not need to find a research group; the thesis projects have already been pre-selected. You have to apply directly to one or several research project(s).

What happens after I submit my application?

There is a three-step selection process as detailed in the Applicants guide. After you submit your application online, all the information and documents in the application package will be checked by the Management Team in order to verify your eligibility; then the application will be evaluated on file, and the 3 best candidates who score the minimum threshold will be invited to interviews (remotely).

Please, note that the deadline for submitting your project via the following email address international@isite-ulne.fr is 10:00am (Paris time) on the 31th of March 2021.

What are some of the practical details of the benefits of a PEARL fellowship (salary, insurance, housing, etc.)?

PEARL is co-funded by the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie COFUND action within the H2020 Research and Innovation programme of the European Union. Within this programme funded by the EU and the I-SITE ULNE, the PhD fellows will sign a three-year work contract with one of the competent institutions to deliver the diploma (Université de Lille, Centrale Lille or IMT Lille-Douai). These PhD fellowships are remunerated above that of a standard French PhD contract. This salary includes unemployment insurance, work-site insurance, and health insurance as well as a pension plan. After standard deductions, this will amount to a net salary of around €1600.

In addition to the net salary, you will be provided with a monthly lump-sum of €530 to cover your mobility, work travel and/or family costs that you will manage on your own but you will be asked to justify its use.

Where can I find help with administrative paper work?

Your principal investigator(s) will be there to help you settling up in Lille as well as the PEARL programme staff members. The University of Lille recently launched an International house in which you can find support. The International and HR departments will also be at your disposal for any requests, doubts you may have.

How can I find an apartment in Lille?

In the framework of PEARL, we pre-booked apartments in and around Lille in order to make things easier for you. We selected three residences in which you can ask to stay (you have to pay the rent). You will have the choice to select them in the application form. As place is limited, we cannot guarantee that your choice will be accepted.

If you do not want to live in one of these three residences, you will have to rent an apartment in the private sector.